(Washington, DC)— Congresswoman Gwen Moore (D-Wisc.) today made the following comments on the eighth anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

"September 11, 2001 changed our world tremendously, giving Americans a new sense of not only our vulnerability in the world, but also, in our response, a new appreciation of our strength as a nation that espouses the ideals of freedom and equality," Congresswoman Moore said. "Eight years later, the images of that tragic day in American history are as vivid as ever — but so is the renewed sense of patriotism we all felt as our nation came together both out of collective concern for our country and reenergized gratitude for all that America represents.

"Walking around the Capitol this week, I had the opportunity to shake the hands of the families that lost loved ones on United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania on that fateful day. Being in their presence reminded me of the kinship that our nation's reaction to September 11 engendered between all Americans and continues to inspire today.

"May God bless the families of the nearly 3,000 Americans whose lives were lost in the attacks on our country on September 11, 2001. May God also bless the firefighters and first responders who bravely worked to save them and the men and women who continue to selflessly protect and defend our nation overseas. Your sacrifices will not be forgotten."

Today also marks the first-ever federally recognized September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance. On April 21, 2009, Congresswoman Moore was present at the White House when President Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which included a provision supported by the families of the 9/11 victims that designates September 11 each year as a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

Service projects marking the eight year anniversary of 9/11 will take place in all 50 states, ranging from food drives and home repairs to neighborhood cleanups and disaster preparation activities. In many areas, volunteers will honor veterans, soldiers, or first responders by collecting donations, assembling care packages, and writing thank you letters.

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